

Amendment to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A fusion protein comprising (a) ~~a ligand-binding domain,~~ a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a proliferation-inducing part thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell ~~(b) a domain that associates when a ligand binds to the domain of (a), and (c) a domain comprising a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to a cell upon the association.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the ~~“domain comprising a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to a cell upon the association”~~ second polypeptide is derived from a G-CSF receptor or c-mpl.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The fusion protein of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the “ligand” is a tamoxifen, ~~the~~ a derivative thereof, or ~~the~~ a metabolite thereof and the “ligand-binding domain” ~~and “a domain that associates when a ligand binds to said domain”~~ are is derived from a mutant estrogen receptor that is unresponsive to a an estrogen and that is responsive to a tamoxifen, ~~the~~ a derivative thereof, or ~~the~~ a metabolite thereof.

Claim 6 (Original): A DNA encoding the fusion protein of Claim 1.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A vector comprising a the DNA of Claim 6.

Claim 8 (Original): A cell carrying the vector of Claim 7.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A method for selectively proliferating the cell of Claim 8, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 8 to a ligand capable of acting on the “ligand-binding domain” of the fusion protein of Claim 1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A vector comprising a desired exogenous gene and a DNA encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) ~~a ligand binding domain~~, a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a proliferation-inducing part thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell ~~a domain that associates when a ligand binds to the domain of (a), and (c) a domain that imparts proliferation activity to a cell upon the association.~~

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The vector of ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 10, wherein the cytokine receptor is a ~~G-CSF receptor or c-mpl.~~

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The vector of ~~Claim 13~~ Claim 10, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The vector of Claim 10, wherein the “ligand” is a tamoxifen, ~~the~~ a derivative thereof, or ~~the~~ a metabolite thereof, and the “ligand-binding domain” ~~and “a domain that associates when a ligand binds to said domain” are~~ is derived from a mutant estrogen receptor that is unresponsive to a an estrogen and that is responsive to a tamoxifen, ~~the~~ a derivative thereof, or ~~the~~ a metabolite thereof.

Claim 16 (Original): The vector of Claim 10, wherein the “gene encoding a fusion protein” and the “exogenous gene” are located on the same molecule.

Claim 17 (Original): The vector of Claim 10, wherein the “gene encoding a fusion protein” and the “exogenous gene” are located on separate molecules.

Claim 18 (Original): A cell carrying the vector of claim 10.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method for selectively proliferating the cell of Claim 18, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 18 to a ligand capable of acting on the “ligand-binding domain” of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector of Claim 10.

Claim 20 (Original): A kit comprising (a) the vector of Claim 7 or Claim 10, and (b) a ligand capable of acting on the “ligand-binding domain” of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector.

Claim 21 (New): The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the second polypeptide comprises both a G-CSF receptor region and c-mpl region.

Claim 22 (New): The fusion protein of Claim 21, wherein the second polypeptide comprises the extracellular region of a G-CSF receptor and the cytoplasmic region of c-mpl.

Claim 23 (New): The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor or mineral corticoid receptor.

Claim 24 (New): The vector of Claim 10, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor or mineral corticoid receptor.